

The Very Common, very
misunderstood

Rat Snake







Snakes of Beaufort County

- Worm Snake
- Ringneck Snake
- Rough Earth Snake
- Smooth Earth Snake
- Pine Woods Snake
- Southeastern Crowned Snake
- Brown Snake
- Redbelly Snake
- Rough Green Snake
- Eastern Garter Snake
- Eastern Ribbon Snake
- Mudsnake
- Rainbow Snake
- Mole Kingsnake
- Scarlet Kingsnake
- Eastern Kingsnake
- Eastern Hognose Snake
- Scarlet Snake
- Pine Snake
- Black Racer
- Corn Snake
- Rat Snake
- Black Swamp Snake
- Banded Watersnake
- Northern Watersnake
- Redbelly Watersnake
- Brown Watersnake
- Copperhead
- Cottonmouth
- Timber Rattlesnake
- Pigmy Rattlesnake

Nonvenomous and Venomous

Nonvenomous

- Oval shaped head
- Oval shaped eyes
- Slender Bodied



Venomous

- Diamond shaped head
- Crescent shaped eyes
- Heavy Bodied



Nonvenomous

- Oval shaped head
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Venomous

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Rat Snakes of Beaufort

- Corn Snake
- Black Rat Snake
- Yellow Rat Snake





Corn Snake?



Keeled v. Smooth



Physical Description

- General Physical Description.
- Long Slender
- Oval shaped eyes
- Round head
- Length:

Behavior

- Found:
- When:
- Arboreal



Habitat

- **Habitat:** Wild Corn Snakes prefer habitats such as overgrown fields, forest openings, trees, and abandoned or seldom-used buildings and farms, from sea level to as high as 6,000 feet. They can be found in the [southeastern United States](#) ranging from [New Jersey](#) to the [Florida keys](#) and as far west as [Texas](#).
- In colder regions, snakes hibernate during winter. However, in the more temperate climate along the coast they shelter in rock crevices and logs during cold weather, and come out on warm days to soak up the heat of the sun, a process known as [brumation](#).^[3] During cold weather, snakes are less active and therefore hunt less

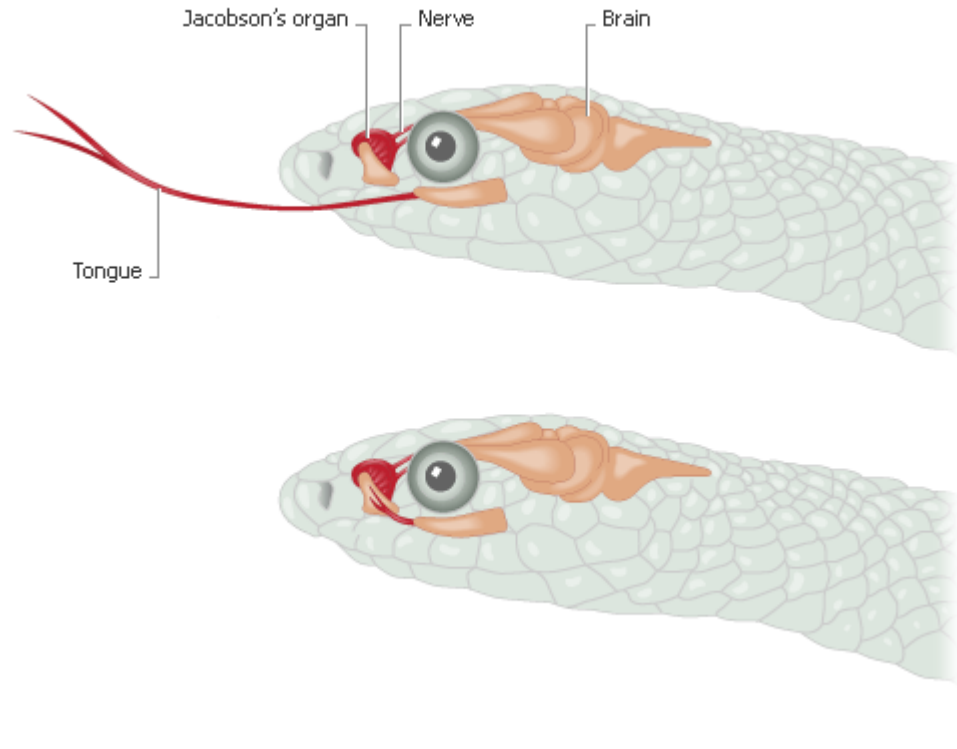


Hunting

- Venom injection
- Constriction
- The Black Racer, the hunter



The Sense of Smell



Diet

- Frogs
- Toads
- Lizards
- Snakes
- Soft-bodied insects
- Bats



- Small Birds
- Bird Eggs
- Small Mammals







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Rat Snake Reproduction

- Corn snakes usually [breed](#) shortly after the winter cooling. The male courts the female primarily with tactile and chemical cues, then everts one of his [hemipenes](#), inserts it into the female, and ejaculates his [sperm](#). If the female is [ovulating](#), the eggs will be fertilized, and she will begin sequestering nutrients into the eggs, then secreting a shell.
- Egg-laying occurs slightly more than a month after mating, with 12 to 24 eggs deposited into a warm, moist, hidden location. Once laid the adult snake abandons the eggs and does not return to them. The eggs are oblong with a leathery, flexible shell. Approximately 10 weeks after laying, the young snakes use a specialized scale called an [egg tooth](#) to slice slits in the egg shell, from which they emerge at about 5 inches in length.



Juvenile Rat Snakes



Rat Snake Lore

Threat = Humans



Natural Predators











Black Rat Snake

OR

Not?









Corn Snake

OR

Not?

Venomous?

1. Head Shape

2. Eye Shape

3. Body Structure

- Most Importantly...if you don't know, enjoy from a distance.





The Rat Snake